

Autumn 2021 : Issue 156

Yorkshire **DALES** review

Designs on the Landscape



.....
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.....


**Friends of the
DALES**
YORKSHIRE DALES SOCIETY
1981 Forty Years 2021

Front cover photo:
Malham farmer, Neil Heseltine,
with Belted Galloway cattle.
Photo courtesy of Steve Garnett

Views expressed in the *Yorkshire Dales Review* are not necessarily those of Friends of the Dales.

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Westmorland Dales

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Following in Morrison's Footsteps



Autumn Contributor Bios



Pages 6-7 - Paul Chatterton is Professor of Urban Futures at the University of Leeds. He works four days a week, and most Fridays he can be found cycling around the Yorkshire Dales on his bike.



Pages 8-9 - Richard Boothman is an environmental associate lecturer with The Open University and also runs ideostone Limited, a small business that develops and delivers online environmental learning. After growing up in the Dales, he left for education and work before returning in 2014.



Pages 12-13 - Hannah Kingsbury is the cultural heritage officer for the Westmorland Dales Landscape Partnership Scheme, and was previously the historic environment apprentice at the YDNPA. Through work, and her own personal research, she has developed a particular interest in farm buildings, especially those in the Yorkshire Dales.



Page 18 - Heather Lane is the honorary curator of the Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly in Settle, and Chair of the North Craven Building Preservation Trust. She runs a nationwide cultural heritage consultancy practice based in Littondale.



Page 19 - Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong is chair of Dent with Cowgill Parish Council. Since moving to Dent in 2000 she has been

actively involved in community life including taking board roles in health, the police, housing and community engagement. She served as a Secretary of State member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for eight years, chairing several committees and acting as Deputy Chair.

Thoughts on a Fundamentally Flawed Housing Policy

In 2010 I resigned from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority feeling uncomfortable with its housing policy – as flawed then as it is now. At the time, I warned that ‘no amount of new housing, affordable or otherwise, will keep our Dales communities alive’ unless we concentrate on finding ways of bringing together businesses, councils and other partners to see how we can use our beautiful landscape to bring to this area jobs in tune with the Dales.

Since then, the Dales’ demographic profile has not improved and the exodus of young people continues, leading to further loss of services and reducing the quality of community life. Yet it now looks as though the new Local Plan’s housing policy is likely to follow the same flawed pattern.

I’m not against new housing in the Dales but experience in over 100 national parks across Europe shows that just increasing the housing stock does nothing to help local communities thrive. The key assumption in the next Local Plan – ‘dwelling-led growth’ – is fundamentally flawed. It’s not going to happen. Just increasing the housing stock simply results in more people travelling out of the area for employment, contributing little to the vibrancy of local communities. It can also exacerbate the problem of second homes, over-tourism and underoccupancy, not to mention land banking. Current planning conditions are of little use to prevent this.

The present debate over how many houses to build each year – 40, 60, 80 or whatever – is sterile and overlooks the large number of outstanding permissions: over 600. It ignores the need for better job and career opportunities, especially for young people. Much greater effort must be made to change the park’s failed economic model of low wages/high carbon and to focus on opportunities for businesses and jobs. The necessary housing can then follow.

The authority has the power, but perhaps not yet the will, to work with partners on improving the socio-economic conditions in the Dales. It could ‘co-operate with local authorities and public bodies whose functions include the promotion of economic or social development within the area of the National Park’ (1995 Environment Act) and should do so much more.

Friends of the Dales members have voiced some excellent, forward-thinking ideas, some of which you can read on page 9. I particularly love the suggestion of creating a University of the Dales, to specialise in environmental management and cultural landscapes; and another one of providing more shared spaces for home working or other suitable work, which would be good for both the Dales’ economy and for reducing the number of residents travelling out for employment.

There is so much untapped creative energy in the Dales. Therefore, abandon the flawed housing policy and address the more fundamental questions of why people leave the Dales, why services are diminishing and why schools are closing. As ever, Friends of the Dales are ready to contribute enthusiastically to a more sustainable future for the Dales.

Wilf Fenten, Vice-Chair

For the Craven Herald’s coverage of the reasons for Wilf’s resignation from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority visit www.cravenherald.co.uk/news/8235151.yorkshire-dales-park-member-quits-with-a-broadside/

1 in 5

houses in national park under-occupied (second homes, holiday lets or vacant)

600 permissions outstanding



The Dales as a recognised centre for excellence in environmental management would help create opportunities for young people. Photo courtesy of Hilary Fenten



Back Out on the Fells

July and August saw us – finally – back out on the fells hosting our popular guided walks. In July, trustee Scarlett Armstrong led a group on a six-mile walk from Gargrave over a stretch of the Pennine Way. In August our trustee and Yorkshire Dales farmer Anthony Bradley, with support from Heather Whalley of the Ribble Rivers Trust, took participants on a four-mile walk, which facilitated a fascinating examination of how and why carbon is stored within the soil. Heather also touched on the complexities of balancing the needs of the rivers and the land. For information about future guided walks see our events page or sign up to the e-news at www.friendsofthedales.org.uk.



August's farm walk. Photo courtesy of Ann Shadrake

Spreading the Word about Friends of the Dales

It's good to talk and so we have been working hard at reaching many more people over the last few months and spreading the word about our campaigns. We hope you might have caught sight of some of our recent features, which have made the pages of various regional and local publications including *Yorkshire Life* and *Living North*.



Victoria Benn reading *Yorkshire Life* outside the office at Gargrave

Plastic-Free Dales Campaign

We are delighted that the Woodland Trust has announced that it will no longer use new, single-use plastic tree guards on its land from the end of 2021. We welcome the trust's commitment to this important environmental issue as we have been actively campaigning against single-use plastics in the Dales for the last two years. We also hope that this public commitment, along with its ongoing research into finding viable alternatives, hastens the end of the widespread and often negligent use of plastic in tree planting.

The Woodland Trust is also part of the Forestry Plastics Working Group, which aims to reduce plastics across the whole of the forestry and conservation sector. Members include the Forestry Commission, National Trust, Scottish Forestry, Confederation of Forest Industries UK and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust.



Joe Middleton, Site Manager (South West) for the Woodland Trust, with some of the alternatives to plastic tubes being trialled by the trust. Courtesy of the Woodland Trust

New Business Member

ideostone

ideostone is a small Skipton-based business providing on-line and face-to-face courses, training and mentoring in environmental literacy - giving people, and organisations, better knowledge and understanding of the benefits we gain from our environment and, conversely, the harm we are causing it. It strongly believes that knowing more about the world we live in will lead to us enhancing rather than degrading the environment in which we live and work.



Briggs Bros Colour Printers

This edition of the *Yorkshire Dales Review* will be the final one produced in partnership with Briggs Bros (Silsden) Ltd. Very sadly the business will be closing for economic reasons in autumn 2021. Briggs has worked with us for 10 years, refreshing the look and feel of our magazine to become even more of a 'flagship' publication. All of the team have been unfailingly helpful and supportive, particularly during the additional challenges of restrictions in 2020/2021. Special thanks go to Tony Lee and Phill Newsome (Directors) and graphic designer Michael Spencer.



Freeing Dales of Plastic

Congratulations to Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust which, as part of its Plastic-Free Woodland project, sent off 20,000 redundant tubes for recycling. (Some of these were collected by Friends of the Dales members – see the summer 2021 issue of the *Review*). Another 20,000 are due to be collected and recycled by the end of the year.

Did You Know?

The poorest 45% of humanity produces 7% of CO2 emissions; the richest 7% produces 50%. It's estimated that 1/6 of the world's population contributes close to zero greenhouse gas emissions!

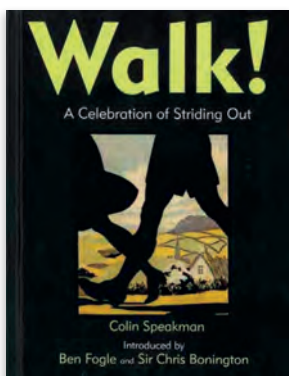
Protecting Our Peatlands

Our fragile uplands are at the forefront of the fight against climate change and we are committed to ensuring that their conservation is not overlooked in favour of more media-friendly measures such as tree planting.

We will soon be adopting a peatlands policy to help us campaign for the protection and restoration of these vital carbon sinks. This will be posted on our website alongside statements on other important Dales issues such as energy, farming, forestry and woodland, housing, sustainable development and wildlife and biodiversity. All these policies will be subject to review in the light of the climate emergency.

We have also contributed to an important Campaign for National Parks report that looks at the measures currently being taken in England and Wales and calls for further action. Recommendations include reviewing and potentially removing permitted development rights in protected landscapes. The *National Parks and the Climate Emergency* full and summary reports can be downloaded at www.cnp.org.uk/ClimateReport2021

Last Chance to Buy



Walk! A Celebration of Striding Out (2011) by Colin Speakman traces the connection between the writings of the great 19th-century Romantic poets and thinkers and Britain's national parks and long-distance walking. Colin has 40 signed copies of this long-out-of-print book, which you can purchase for £10 (inclusive of p&p and a £1 donation to the Campaign for National Parks). *John Phillips, Yorkshire's Traveller Through Time*

(2020), also by Colin Speakman, is also now available at the special price of £10 (inc p&p). To order visit www.gritstonecoop.co.uk or email colinspeakman@btinternet.com. Either or both would make a great Christmas gift.

Meet and Greet Campaign

Several of our trustees and volunteers have been out and about over the summer months, spreading awareness of Friends of the Dales and who we are and what we do, as well as highlighting our key 2021 environmental campaigns. Pictured here is Membership and Events officer Victoria Benn with long-standing volunteer Bernard Peel, just prior to his successful Meet and Greet at Malham Tarn in August.



Bus Back Better

A new National Bus Strategy entitled Bus Back Better was published earlier this year. It aims to get more people travelling by bus, but this will not be achieved unless buses are made a practical and attractive alternative to the car for more people.

Each local authority is tasked with submitting a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to the Department for Transport by the end of October. Friends of the Dales, together with our subsidiary Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company (D&BCIC), have supported CPRE North Yorkshire and Action for Yorkshire Transport in drafting a series of recommendations for inclusion in North Yorkshire County Council's plan. These proposals can be found in the "Better Buses for North Yorkshire" paper on our website at www.dalesbus.org, and include improved connectivity, increased capacity, the development of tourist services, improved infrastructure, simpler, more affordable fares and improved information and publicity.

We are particularly keen that the plan includes the restoration of funding from the county council for the DalesBus services managed by D&BCIC, which have become overly dependent on short-term fundraising in recent years. This is important to ensure that these services can be maintained and developed in the future, for the benefit of Dales residents, local businesses and visitors to the area, as well as helping to tackle the climate emergency.

Members can help by urgently voicing their support for these recommendations to their local county councillors.

Paul Chattwood, Dales & Bowland CIC



Sunday DalesBus services connecting at Grassington

Homes Fit for the Future?



Views of Lilac Grove cohousing project. Photo courtesy of the LILAC project

Changing the homes we live in is one of the key challenges in tackling the climate emergency. The UK's 30 million homes account for about 15% of all carbon emissions through their use of oil and gas for heating and hot water. If we are to take the dire and blunt warnings of the international scientific community seriously then we have 10 years to really turn things around. This is across every sector in our society, including new-build and existing housing. The task laid out by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is to reach net zero emissions by the 2050s and reduce them by at least half over the next decade. This really is an unprecedented task.

But here's the good news: this can all be done – but we have to act fast. And, it has to happen everywhere – cities, towns and countryside. So what does this mean, in particular what does it mean for a special and protected place like the Yorkshire Dales?

It means big changes for new-build and existing homes and it also means big changes in terms of how we live in them, what our communities are like, where we get our shopping and how we travel around.

Starting From Scratch

First, let's consider new builds. We are all familiar with new-build housing estates cropping up across our country. Many people are, understandably, opposed to these. They are often delivered at high cost and to poor environmental standards, take up pristine green belt land, look rather anonymous, attract car-based commuters and push up local house prices. They are often delivered by firms more interested in shareholder profits than local community issues. Yet it doesn't have to be like this.

A community-led housing sector (www.communityledhomes.org.uk) has emerged to put local people in control of the supply of new housing. Using community land trusts (www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk), new housing is built according to local need, remains affordable in perpetuity and houses people from the local area. Communities are also using the Danish-inspired Cohousing (cohousing.org.uk) model, which builds in neighbourliness

and creates beautiful, safe areas that are less car-based. The task is to make sure all new builds are as close to zero carbon as possible, are energy- and water-efficient, reduce dependency on the car, build in walking and cycling infrastructure along with options for local food growing and home working. Such considerations help to build in local wellbeing and jobs and tackle climate change. It's a win-win.

Working With What We've Got

In terms of existing houses, the task is to urgently retrofit our housing stock through better insulation and zero carbon forms of heat such as air source heat pumps. This is a huge task and is made more difficult not least because of the lack of skills and finance, but also the variety of local housing. Nevertheless, models for mass retrofit are emerging such as Energiesprong (energiesprong.org) from the Netherlands and the retrofitWorks project (retrofitworks.co.uk) in the north of England. One solution would be to set up a retrofit college in the Yorkshire Dales to train local people to take on this massive retrofit housing project. Cooperative and community-led businesses could undertake the work, recycling money back into local communities. Additionally, solar clubs could help pool resources to install solar PV and thermal units to provide free electricity and hot water for many months of the year.

We have incorporated many of these features into the LILAC (Low Impact Living Affordable Community) housing project (www.lilac.coop) in Leeds, where I currently live, and which I helped to set up. The use of natural, high-insulating materials such as straw and lime, as well as reduced car use, home composting, vegetarian diets, water-saving and bulk food purchasing has achieved energy reductions of one third compared to a typical UK house. This really helps reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. LILAC uses a cooperative model of ownership where the value of the homes is linked to average wages rather than market value, making homes permanently affordable for future residents. A Cohousing design approach which increases shared spaces means that neighbours regularly meet, increasing a sense of community, sharing and wellbeing.

LILAC opening ceremony 2013. Photo courtesy of the LILAC project



Less than 4%
zero-energy housing in the UK

Views of Lilac Grove cohousing project. Photo courtesy of the LILAC project

Rethinking Naturally

The housing challenge for the Yorkshire Dales in the next 10 years is huge. We need to preserve what works and change what doesn't. Most of the existing stock needs better insulation as a priority and gas boilers to be replaced with heat pumps or electric heating. A coherent and ample government grant programme will be key to this, but

that is a long way off. If new housing is community-led there's likely to be less local opposition. The new homes we build need to be high-density, near local services, making them less car-dependent, and with ample green space for leisure and food growing. This may seem like a new approach to housing compared to the existing housing stock in the Dales; it might also mean different, modern and Scandinavian designs incorporating more natural materials - especially those that offer job creation, strength, lower cost and higher insulating properties like straw and lime. But surely this feels fitting for such a natural place that will be moving more towards landscape restoration and rewilding in the years to come?

So let's hold on to the vision of zero-carbon, nature-based, community-led and affordable housing for the Yorkshire Dales by the 2030s. That would be fitting for God's Own Country.

Prof Paul Chatterton, University of Leeds

Climate Breakdown in Picturing the

This article was prompted by a recent talk to our policy and planning committee by Richard Boothman of local environmental learning organisation *ideostone*, which is one of our new business members. Richard's talk was intended to help with discussions about climate change policy and he has written this article to extend the debate to the wider membership.

Most people are now aware of 'climate change' but few people fully understand what this means for us, individually and as members of society. Part of this is to do with terminology. 'Climate change' implies something gradual, manageable and potentially beneficial. It will be none of these things.

Changes in our climate, experienced as severe and extreme weather events, are arriving more often and with greater severity. As changes happen, we run the risk that we will reach a series of tipping points. Tipping points are thresholds that, if crossed, cause a system to change from one state to another. Our climate system, which has been in equilibrium for several hundred years, is now rapidly entering a different state. This new state is much less benign and heat, rainfall and wind are manifesting as drought, floods, intense storms and wildfires, which are becoming unmanageable. The climate system as we have known it is breaking down, so I prefer to use the term 'climate breakdown'. I make this point because words matter and what we call this massive shift in our climate system will determine how we act.



Slei Gill near Langthwaite. Photo courtesy of YDNPA

the Dales Future

Nine Years From Now

The world is experiencing climate breakdown and the Dales will not be immune to these changes. While we cannot manage the changes, we do need to manage our response to them. This depends on being able to identify what we want the Dales to be like in future and to develop policies to achieve this outcome.

With this in mind, I invited the committee to take some time to try to visualise the Dales in 2030 in terms of landscape, people, industry and business, housing and biodiversity. Since the talk some committee members have shared their ideas. Some were surprising and thought-provoking, especially in relation to social issues as the contributions on this page show. To develop this idea further I would like to invite you, in your own time, to undertake a similar exercise.

Find somewhere quiet, set a timer for three minutes and close your eyes. Try to visualise what you would like the Dales to be like in 2030 with the proviso that 'just as they are now' is not an option. If you would like to share your ideas with me and members of the policy committee, please do so by contacting Friends of the Dales in the usual way. Your ideas and input will help as we develop a policy on climate breakdown.

The first ten members to respond will be offered free access to an ideostone online training course in climate breakdown or environmental literacy.

Richard Boothman



Two of our trustees share their vision for the Dales in 2030

A Wilder Future

- The moorlands a lot 'wilder', with more diverse vegetation including leggy heather and scrub and more trees on side slopes (largely from natural regeneration)
- Fewer areas managed for grouse shooting; more areas managed for wildlife, thus attracting wildlife holidays as well as casual visitors
- The Dales with an international reputation for its abundant wildlife, as well as its historic landscapes and geological features
- Swathes of species-rich meadows and pastures in the valleys (not the isolated fields that we have now), with well-managed, flower-rich verges
- Less traffic...more access by a system of shuttle buses, as well as rail; continued emphasis on walkers, with limits on 'honeypots'
- Communities with a shared sense of valuing their landscapes and wildlife and helping others to understand and enjoy them
- Eco-friendly businesses/ live-work spaces/more working from home, so less commuting

Nancy Stedman

Pioneering New Ways of Working

- Demonstrable leadership in nature recovery including increased tree cover, sensitively planted and actively managed, attracting sustainable tourism based on closeness to nature, tranquillity and all of our special qualities
- A thriving centre for digital business... a designated and promoted 'Digital Dale' (our Silicon Valley) served by world-class broadband, carbon-neutral buildings etc
- A University of the Dales with a stunning campus, perhaps established at Sedbergh, recognised for excellence in environmental management, cultural landscapes etc
- The Dales acknowledged as a centre of excellence for land management in the uplands, showcasing innovative farming practices and active cooperation between landowners/farmers
- A regional centre for wellbeing established in partnership with the NHS, perhaps on the site of Dales Dairies in Grassington
- Increased train services and a network of electric buses

Mark Corner

Standing Out a Mile?

Large, new agricultural sheds can be highly prominent developments in the national park landscape. To what extent are the current planning rules and design guidelines still fit for purpose, given increased concerns around sustainability, alternative energy production, farm viability and the climate emergency? As a campaigning charity we'll be seeking to develop our own understanding of this complex area, so we are better informed on how to lobby and support.

Some new agricultural buildings are considered under the permitted development rule. The majority go through a more detailed process of prior approval or full planning permission, which offers the opportunity for us (and others) to comment on design and siting. Factors such as roof materials and colour, the amount of planting for screening and external light pollution are considered within the existing design guidelines but are these guidelines still fit for purpose? Some agricultural buildings seem to fit well into the landscape (see photo) but others appear more prominent and problematic.

For example, given the national park's recent designation as an International Dark Sky Reserve, do the rules on external lighting go far enough? Could more emphasis be put on roof-mounted solar panels? Are there newer, more sustainable building materials that should be encouraged? To what extent will large sheds be part of a viable upland farmed landscape in the future?

These are the sorts of questions our policy and planning committee intends to look at in detail with the help of informed experts. If you have a view or would like to make a contribution, please get in touch (contact details on page 2).

Ann Shadrake, Executive Director



New agricultural building, Birk Rigg. Photo courtesy of Kyle Blue

Designs for Life

It's great to see cutting-edge, sustainable, eco-building designs being proposed for the Yorkshire Dales. Here, Victoria Benn, Membership & Events Officer, takes a look at two award-winning proposed projects:



Linton Camp as it stands today.
Photo courtesy of *Craven Herald*



Linton eco-hotel artist's impression.
Graphic courtesy of *Craven Herald*

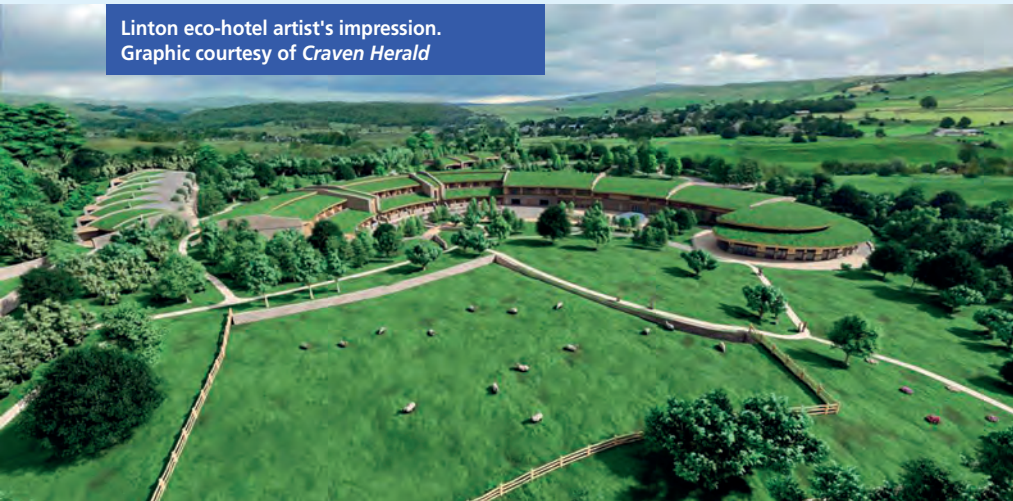
Linton Hotel and Leisure Park

The proposal for the site just outside the village of Linton had previously been subject to several failed planning processes. We raised several concerns about the scheme, especially with regard to its 'scale in a location with minor roads' and its 'proposed planting, which will introduce non-native species more appropriate to urban locations'. After further and ongoing dialogue between planners and the local community the basic design was approved, created by Perth-based Trail Architects, which won the Architecture - Future Building or Project award in the Scottish Design Awards for the project.

Flexible Housing Concept - Horton-in-Ribblesdale

Great Place: Lakes & Dales (GPLD) is one of 16 pilot projects funded by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It ran a design competition in 2019 in collaboration with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to attract architects from around the world to bring their innovative thinking to designing flexible housing for the site in Horton-in-Ribblesdale, which would particularly appeal to young people and draw them to the Yorkshire Dales and South Lakes. The photos show the winning design by McMullan Studio. The planning proposal for a mixture of open-market and affordable dwellings for the site received comments from us in relation to the road safety of the site and the lack of connective pavements. This planning application is still in process.

Linton eco-hotel artist's impression.
Graphic courtesy of *Craven Herald*



The Flexstead Interior.
Graphic by McMullan Studio

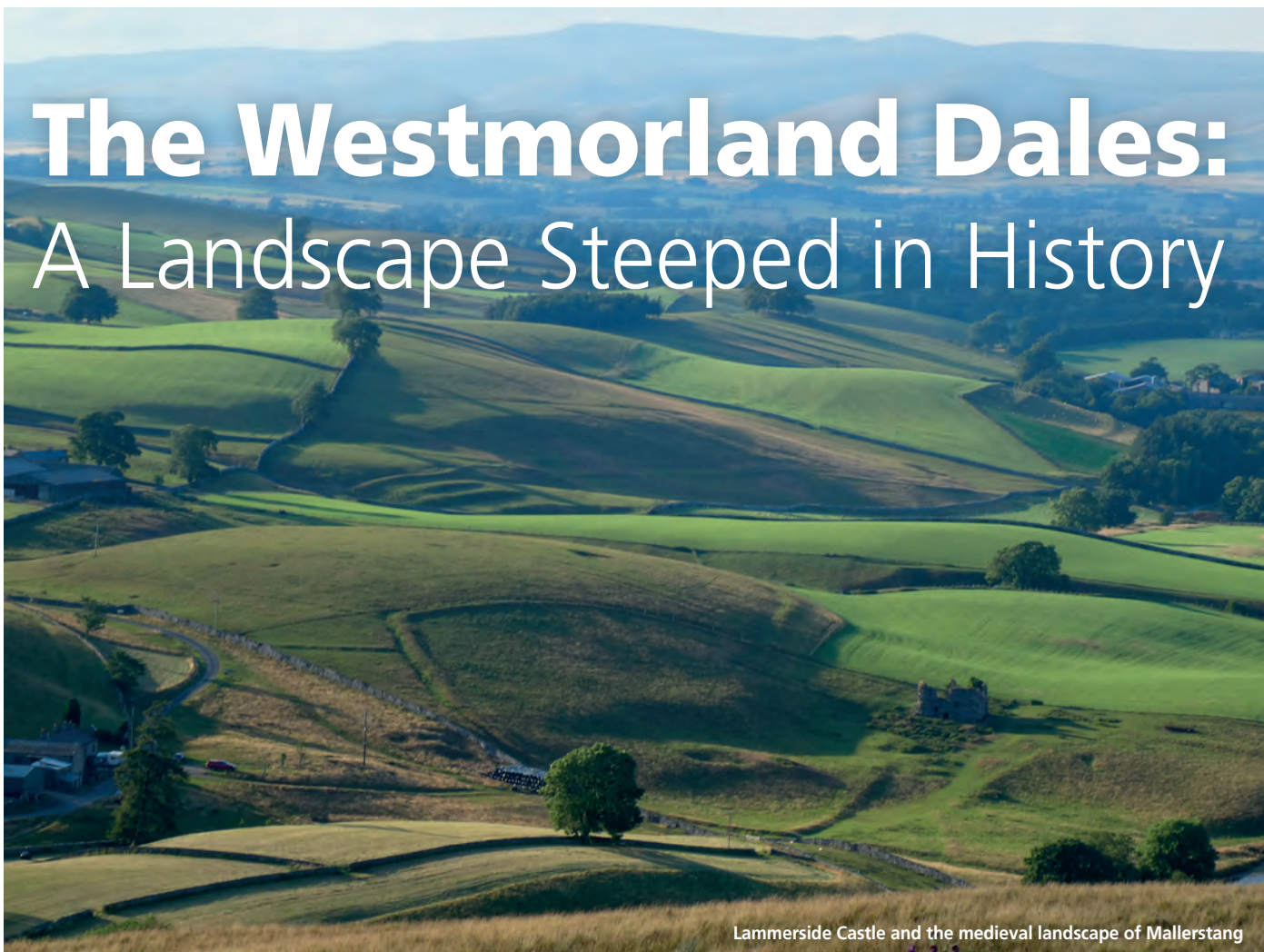


The Flexstead Exterior.
Graphic by McMullan Studio



The Flexstead.
Graphic by McMullan Studio

The Westmorland Dales: A Landscape Steeped in History



Lammerside Castle and the medieval landscape of Mallerstang

The extension of the Yorkshire Dales National Park in 2016 increased its area by 24% but the number of scheduled monuments by 47%, the great majority of these in the Westmorland Dales area.

The ancient county of Westmorland took its name from 'the people west of the moors' in the kingdom of Northumbria, some 1,400 years ago. Created in 1133, the original county was confined to the Eden Valley but soon afterwards the Barony of Kendal was added. This enlarged boundary remained until the creation of Cumbria in 1974.

However, the history of the area precedes the county's creation in 1133. Many people believe the Westmorland Dales to be the richest prehistoric archaeological area north of Salisbury Plain. The area has a unique assemblage of cultural heritage including a remarkably intact pattern of historic settlements (like Castle Folds, the Romano-British settlement) and associated earthworks, as well as prehistoric stone circles (as at Gamelands near Orton), cairns and burials mounds.

The Westmorland Dales in numbers:

- **Seven conservation areas**
- **150 listed buildings**
six grade I, 17 grade II*, 127 grade 2
- **80 scheduled monuments**

Witnesses to the Past

Many villages in the Westmorland Dales bear the clear imprint of their medieval origins in their layouts, field patterns and ploughing rigs. In addition, Mallerstang has a particularly interesting medieval landscape, which includes Wharton Hall, Lammerside Castle and Pendragon Castle. All of these were sites of manorial status. The fortunes of the different estates were constantly changing during this period and local rivalries surfaced at many points.

Significant areas of the Westmorland Dales were granges for monasteries such as Byland Abbey and Shap Abbey. In addition, Ravenstonedale has a scheduled monument near the current parish church: this monument was a cell of the Gilbertine canons of Whatton. It was founded in 1366 and in use until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. (The Gilbertine order is thought to be the only order to originate in England.)

It is not possible to talk about the Yorkshire Dales or Cumbria without also dwelling on their farming and industrial heritage, and this is no different in the Westmorland Dales. As a whole, the architecture of the Westmorland Dales is vernacular, and the villages are dominated by farms. In the last couple of hundred years, it has predominantly been a pastoral landscape, with bank barns dotting the fields, enclosed by dry stone walls, and much of the upland is unenclosed common. The landscape is also marked with small quarries and lime kilns that have played an important part in the fertility of the pastures and the area's built history.